His MAJESTIES LATE LETTER IN Vindication of Himself:

Dated at St. *Germans en Laye*, the Fourteenth of this Instant *January*, 168⅞.

JAMES R.

MY LORDS; When We saw that it was no longer safe for Us to remain within Our Kingdom of *England*, and that thereupon We had taken Our resolutions to withdraw for some time; We left to be communicated to you, and to all Our Subjects, the Reasons of Our withdrawing: *a* And were likewise resolved at the same time to leave such Orders behind Us to you of Our Privy-Council, as might best suit with the present state of Affairs; But that being altogether unsafe for Us at that time; *b* We now think fit to let you know, that though it has been Our constant care since Our first Accession to the Crown, to Govern Our People with that Justice and Moderation, as to give, if possible, no occasion of Complaint; yet more particularly upon the late Invasion, *d* seeing how the Design was laid; and fearing that Our

People, who would not be deſtroy'd but by themſelves, might by little imaginary Grievances, be cheated into a certain ruine: To prevent ſo great Miſchief, and to take away not only all juſt Cauſes, but even Pretences of Diſcontent; We freely, and of Our own accord redreſſed all thoſe Things that were ſet forth as the Cauſes of that Invaſion: And that We might be informed by the Counſel and Advice of Our Subjects themſelves, which way We might give them a further and a full ſatisfaction; *e* We reſolved to meet them in a free Parliament; And in order to it, We firſt laid the Foundation of ſuch a free Parliament, in reſtoring the City of *London* and the reſt of the Corporations to their ancient Charters and Priviledges; and afterwards actually appointed the Writs to be Iſſued out for the Parliaments Meeting on the 15*th.* of *January*; *f* But the Prince of *Orange* ſeeing all the Ends of his Declaration anſwered, the People beginning to be undeceived, and returning a-pace to their ancient Duty and Allegiance; and well fore-ſeeing that if the Parliament ſhould meet at the time appointed, ſuch a ſettlement in all probability would be made, both in Church and State, as would totally defeat his ambitious and unjuſt Deſigns, reſolved by all means poſſible to prevent the Meeting of the Parliament: *g* And to do this the moſt effectual way, he thought fit to lay a reſtraint on Our Royal Perſon; for as it were abſurd to call that a free Parliament, where there is any Force on either of the Houſes, ſo much leſs can that Parliament be ſaid to Act freely, where their Soveraign, by whoſe Authority they Meet and Sit, and from whoſe Royal Aſſent all their Acts receive their Life and Sanction, is under actual Confinement. The hurrying of Us under a Guard from Our City of *London*, *h* whoſe returning Loyalty We could no longer Truſt, and the other Indignities We ſuffered in the Perſon of the Earl of *Feverſham*, when ſent to him by Us; and in that barbarous Confinement of Our own Perſon, We ſhall not here repeat, becauſe they are, We doubt not by this time, very well known; and may, We hope, if enough conſidered and reflected upon; together with his other Violations

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and Breaches of the Laws and Liberties of *England*, which by this Invaſion he pretended to reſtore, be ſufficient to open the Eyes of all Our Subjects, and let them plainly ſee what every one of them may expect, and what Treatment they ſhall find from him, if at any time it may ſerve his purpoſe, from whoſe hands a Soveraign Prince, an Uncle, and a Father could meet with no better Entertainment. *i* However the ſenſe of theſe Indignities, and the juſt apprehenſion of further Attempts againſt Our Perſon, by them who already endeavoured to murther Our Reputation by Infamous Calumnies (as if We had been capable of a ſuppoſed Prince of *Wales*) which was incomparably more Injurious, than the Deſtroying of Our Perſon it Self; together with a ſerious reflection on a Saying of Our Royal Father of Bleſſed Memory, when he was in the like Circumſtances, *That there is little diſtance between the Priſons and the Graves of Princes* (which afterwards provd too true in His Caſe) could not but perſwade Us to make uſe of that which the Law of Nature gives to the meaneſt of Our Subjects, of freeing Our ſelves by all means poſſible from that unjuſt Confinement and Reſtraint. *k* And this We did not more for the Security of Our own Perſon, than that thereby We might be in a better Capacity of tranſacting and providing for every thing that may Contribute to the Peace and Settlement of Our Kingdoms: For as on the one hand, no change of Fortune ſhall ever make Us forget Our ſelves, ſo far as to Condeſcend to any thing, unbecoming that High and Royal Station, in which God Almighty by Right of Succeſſion has placed Us: *l* So on the other hand, neither the Provocation or Ingratitude of Our own Subjects, nor any other Conſideration whatſoever, ſhall ever prevail with Us to make the leaſt ſtep contrary to the True Intereſt of the *Engliſh* Nation, which We ever did, and ever muſt look upon as Our own. OUR WILL and Pleaſure therefore is, That you of Our Privy Council, take the moſt effectual Care to make theſe Our Gracious Intentions known to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in and about Our Ci-

ties of *London* and *Westminster*, to the Lord Mayor and Commonalty of Our City of *London*, and to all Our Subjects in general, to Assure them, that We desire nothing more, than to return and hold a Free Parliament, wherein We have the best opportunity of Undeceving Our People, and shewing the Sincerity of those Protestations We have often made of the preserving the Liberties and Properties of Our Subjects, and the *Protestant Religion*; more especially the *Church of England* as by Law establish'd, with such Indulgence for those that Dissent from Her, as We have always thought Our selves in Justice and Care of the general Welfare of Our People, bound to procure for them. And in the mean time You of Our Privy Council (who can judge better by being upon the place) are to send Us your Advice, what is fit to be done by Us towards Our Returning, and the accomplishing those Good Ends. And We do require you in Our Name, and by Our Authority, to Endeavour to Suppress all Tumults and Disorders, that the Nation in general, and every one of Our Subjects in particular, may not receive the least prejudice from the present Distractions that is possible. So not doubting of your Dutiful Obedience to these Our Royal Commands, We bid you Heartily Farewel. Given at St. *Germen en Lay* the $\frac{4}{14}$ of *January* 168$\frac{8}{9}$ And of Our Reign the Fourth Year.

By His Majesties Command.
MELFORT.

Directed thus, To the Lords, and Others of Our Privy-Council of the Kingdom of *England*.

Remarques.

Remarques.

THis Paper has been industriously and privately dispersed about this City, bearing the Title of his Majesties Letter, being the Second (said to be by the Romanists) writ since his Desertion, to the Lords of the Privy Council; and because we have yet a veneration left for the Father of our Royal Princesses, we will forbear any severity in our Remarques, as may seem designedly to aggravate those misfortunes his Majesty may lye under, though we cannot altogether be silent in a matter that leaves us all under the heavy imputation of the worst of Criminals: a His Majesty is pleased in the beginning of his Letter to repeat the Reasons he gave in his first departure from Rochester, which because they are fully answered in another Paper, I shall here pass over, for being indeed writ in a hurry, and under apprehensions of danger, it is possible his more material and pertinent objections and reasons might have been slipt over; b but being now more at leasure, he has been pleased to let us know what we have been hither to unfortunately ignorant of, & which our hardned infidelity, till we have more material demonstration than Words, will not readily let us assent to; how nice and cautious his Majesty has been of giving his People any just cause of complaint, may be guess'd from this, that he has been pleased to trample upon, and in effect annul more Laws and Priviledges in the four years of his Reign, than his Predecessors for fourscore years has made for our preservation: c Indeed as he is willing to suggest he made an offer of restauration and redress, but we may presume to believe he mistrusted his Game when he saw the Trump turn'd up, and so like a wary Gamster was willing to change his Cards, or else refer himself to the good hap of another Deal: d His Majesty is pleased to tell us he had a desire to have all grievances redress'd by a free Parliament, which he resolved speedily to call, but as this could not suit with the safety and wishes of some corrupt Ministers about him, so he was readily perswaded to quit those intentions; and though some of the Writs were issued out for their Sitting, yet he shewed us

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the ſincerity of his meaning by his ſudden withdrawing: e *That the Prince meant nothing elſe by his coming, than the re-ſettling the ſhaken Foundations of our Laws and Religion, by an open and free Convention of the States, is plain, from his great moderation ſince their Sitting, and we may juſtly ſay, he has been far more modeſt in all his demands, than we have been grateful in the readineſs of our Grants.* f *I know not how we can believe his Majeſty was ever under reſtraint ſince his ſo eaſie Deſertion ſeems to contradict the Aſſertion:* g *That the City or Country had changed their reſolution, we cannot apprehend, and their conſtant adhereing to their firſt Addreſſes to the Prince, ſhews his Majeſty has been deceived in his News:* h *How inſtrumental the Prince has been in defaming his Majeſty, eſpecially in the matter of the* P. *of* Wales, *all the Kingdom can judge, and we all could wiſh his Majeſties Reputation may be proved innocent and clear from ſo black a Deſign: However we wiſh that his Majeſty had been pleaſed to have left the Infant among us, which after the proof of his Birth of the Queen had been a great Security of his Title to the Crown.* i *As his Majeſty has received many ſignal proofs of our love and duty, ſo in this Retirement of his, he has been pleaſed to ſhew us the firſt inſtance of his care of our Safety,* k *and as his Majeſty* never *gave us reaſon to ſuſpect the intention of his promiſes, never to moleſt or injure the peace and intereſt of his Kingdom of* England, *ſo we cannot but in gratitude wiſh his Majeſty all the Peace and Quiet that his pious Zeal inclines him to.* l *His Majeſty in his gracious Condeſcenſions is pleaſed again to promiſe us the preſervation of our Laws and Liberties, and eſpecially the ſecurity of the* Proteſtant Religion, *but becauſe we cannot invent other means to aſſure us of the performance of this than his Word, the repeated breach of which he has not as yet vouchſafed to acknowledge, we can hardly be ſure of his Majeſties meaning, and may inſtead of finding redreſs of our grievances, be apprehended as Slanderers, and puniſhed as Criminals.*

FINIS.

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